All Saints Day and Communion November 5, 2023



All Saints' Day and Communion Sunday November 5, 2023

Our Gathering

(*Congregation may stand | Responses: Liturgist/Congregation/all)

Prelude Hymn-Sing Scott Horton, organ

Introit "This is the Day" - D. Forrest Chancel Choir

Welcome Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

*Call to Worship Peter Wall, liturgist

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul. Bless the Lord.

All: God's dominion is forever.
One: As for us our days are grass;

All: Like a flower of the field, we flourish for only a season.

One: But the steadfast love of God is from everlasting to everlasting.

All: And God's righteousness is to children's children.

One: The grass withers and the flower fades;

All: But the word of the Lord stands forever.

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul. Bless the Lord.

All: God's presence is forever.

*Hymn "For All the Saints" #299, pew hymnal

Remembering the Saints Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

Time for Discovery [children are invited to the chancel steps]

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still; let this be our song — no one stands alone, standing side by side. Draw the circle wide.

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The Lord's Prayer

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Holy Communion

Invitation to the table

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Hymn "Blest Are They"

Scripture Matthew 5:1-12 Peter Wall

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

^{*}Communion Hymn of Preparation "Come Gather in This Special Place" #335 pew hymnal

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Sermon Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

Sung Call to Prayer

Lord, listen to your children praying: Lord send your Spirit in this place. Lord, listen to your children praying:

Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

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Here at the Big Red Church, everyone counts, and every gift counts!

- ⇒ There are two donation boxes and giving envelopes for your gifts in the Narthex (the area where an usher handed you an Order of Worship).
- ⇒ You can also give through the Givelify App by scanning the QR code with your smartphone camera.
- ⇒ BigRedChurch.org/giving/ has more instructions, links, and information about giving to the church. Thank you for supporting and joining in the ministry of this church.

Prayers of the Church

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

Stewardship Moment

Pete Moe

Invitation to Generosity

Peter Wall

Offertory

"How Firm a Foundation" - arr. L. Larson

Chancel Choir

*Doxology (Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God, above, ye heavenly host.

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

*Closing Hymn

"God, We Thank You for Our People"

#376, pew hymnal

Benediction

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

*Blessing Song

"Go Now in Peace"

Go now in peace, never be afraid; God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day. Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true; know God will guide you in all you do. Go now in love and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world will see God will be there, watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen. Amen. Amen.

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Postlude

"Now Thank We All Our God" - arr. A. Travis

Scott Horton, organ

It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude.

Please join us for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall





This Week at Big Red

Monday, November 6

• **5:00pm:** Yoga - Room 1

<u>Tuesday, November 7</u>

• 6:00pm: M.O.M. - Minturn Chapel

Wednesday, November 8

• 8:00am: Bible Study - Zoom

• 4:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

• **6:00pm:** Handbell rehearsal - Music Room

7:00pm: Chancel Choir rehearsal - Sanctuary

Grapevine submissions
must be received no later
than end of day November
15 for publication in the
December edition.

Thursday, November 9

• 10am, 2pm & 6pm: Meet & Greet Pastor Simon - Parlor (call to reserve a spot)

Friday, November 10

Office will be closed in observance of Veterans' Day

Saturday, November 11

9:00am to 3:00pm: Holiday Boutique - Fellowship Hall & Courtyard

Sunday, November 12

- 9:00am: Roots and Branches Fireside Room
- 10:00am: Worship Service Rev. Davena Jones, Guest Pastor Sanctuary
- 10:00am: "Toucan Sunday" Sanctuary
- 11:00am: Coffee Hour

Upcoming Dates to remember

- Holiday Boutique Nov 11
- BRC Pantry "Free Food Saturday" Nov 18
- Thanksgiving Luncheon Nov 19
- Church Council Meeting Nov 21
- First Sunday of Advent Dec 3

First Congregational Church of Fresno

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Pastor

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

Music Director/Organist

Scott Horton

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Assisting in Today's Service

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Liturgist: Peter Wall

Ushers: Bruce Owdom, Sue Karibian, Bob McParland

Technician: Karisa Garza

Acolytes: Sarah and Selena

Communion Servers: Peter Wall, Sue Northcross,

Janet & Robbyn Mosley, Catherine English

Coffee Hour: Church Life

FCCF Open and Affirming Statement

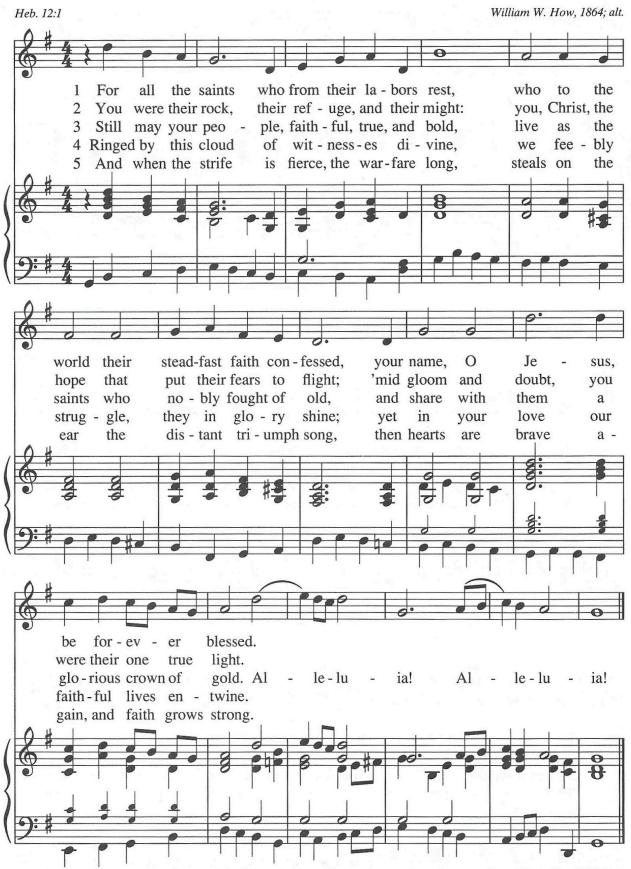
We believe that all people are sacred creations of a loving God. We affirm the diversity that exists among us. We strive to answer the call of Christ by extending his love, compassion and acceptance to everyone. In this spirit, we open our family of faith to people of every religious background, sexual orientation, family composition, physical and mental ability, race, age and gender.

As Christians, we experience God's reconciling love. In response we stand with those who suffer discrimination, isolation and alienation.

We welcome all people to participate fully in our church's life and ministry. We celebrate the variety of talents and perspectives which flow into our spiritual community, continuing to enrich us in ways we could not have predicted or envisioned.

299

For All the Saints



This traditional All Saints Day hymn originally consisted of eleven stanzas written for the Sarum Hymnal (1869) and set to a tune by that name, Sarum. It has grown in popularity since it was later paired with the enduring Sine Nomine in The English Hymnal (1906).

Tune: SINE NOMINE 10.10.10.4. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

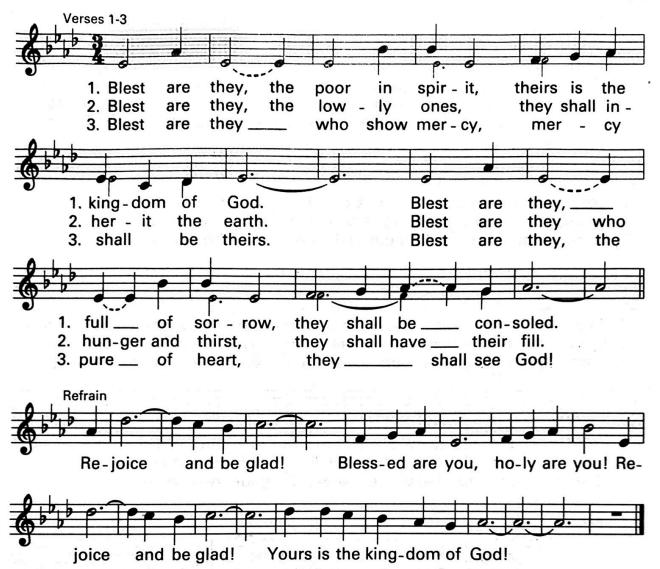


Elaine Kirkland and Phil Porter, both United Church of Christ artists, have been composing songs, hymns, and chants together since 1989. This is the first communion hymn they created, which appeared in their collection Fire Will Shine.

Tune: GATHER L.M. Elaine Kirkland, 1991

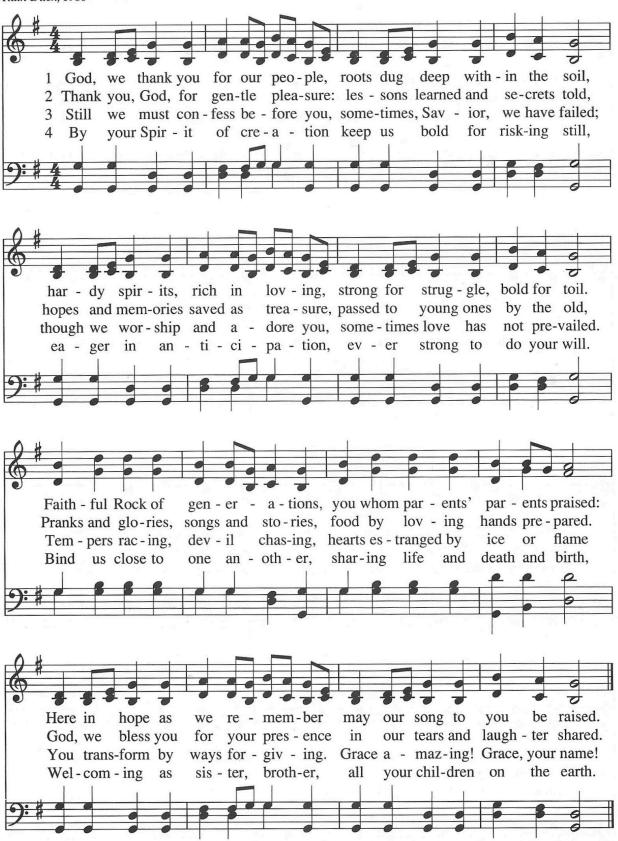
BLEST ARE THEY

David Haas



God, We Thank You for Our People

Ruth Duck, 1986



Ruth Duck created this text at the request of Harold (Hal) McSwain, Jr., for a family reunion. She found her inspiration in the stories of Harold, Sr., and in her own family heritage. The hymn speaks to any community that has shared life together for a long time.

Tune: HOLY MANNA 8.7.8.7.D. William Moore, 1825